



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1914-05-26

Letter from John Muir to [William F.] Herrin, [1914 May 26].

John Muir

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Thanks thank
 Dear Mr. Herron, I thank you for your everlasting kindness
 eyes since that last delightful night at your home
 tracing my old wanderings & trying to make something
 like a book of them. Last Sunday Mr & Mrs Parsons, one of our faithful
 pulchre Sierra Club members died suddenly of heart ^{trouble}
 after their old walk by life a ^{hope} to ^{reach} you beneath the
 Wildwood pines the magic woods of Shasta
 in taken a little more cold in this drizzle weather, so soon
 as ^{the} ^{weather} ^{is} ^{clear} I'll ^{call} ^{on} ^{you} ^{at} ^{your} ^{home} ^{at} ^{your} ^{place}
 another revision I'll ^{call} ^{on} ^{you} ^{at} ^{your} ^{place}
 I'm ^{glad} ^{to} ^{hear} ^{of} ^{your} ^{healing} ^{Sierra} ^{Club} ^{work}
 and ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{meat} ^{with} ^{you} ^{to} ^{go} ^{to} ^{your} ^{place}
 and ^{loop} ^{with} ^{curious} [&] ^{desiring} ^{to} ^{see} ^{you} ^{and} ^{your} ^{work}
 Yours truly Mrs J M

Dear Mrs Parsons
 I little thought when last I wrote that the end of your husband's
 faithful life was so nigh. Mr Colby's letter alarmed me
 I refused to believe that one so full of the strength of the hills
 was beyond healing. I wish I could help to comfort you in ^{the} ^{face} ^{of} ^{the} ^{fact}
 heart words must ^{at} ^{first} ^{be} ⁱⁿ ^{travailing} [&] ^{cold} ^{and} ^{of} ^{all} ^{earth}
 he has gone to ^{the} ^{great} ^{good} ^{work} ^{with} ^{ever} ^{increasing}
 presence more than myself ^{for} ⁱⁿ ^{our} ^{club} ^{work}

I had come to depend on him ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{great} ^{good} ^{work}
 his sudden departure ^{was} ^{our} ^{loss} ^{together} ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{great} ^{good} ^{work}
 he accomplished ^{with} ^{ever} ^{increasing} ^{presence} ^{more} ^{than} ^{myself} ^{for} ⁱⁿ ^{our} ^{club} ^{work}
 Die ^{with} ^{ever} ^{increasing} ^{presence} ^{more} ^{than} ^{myself} ^{for} ⁱⁿ ^{our} ^{club} ^{work}

Your letter & so I'll be ^{judging} [&] ^{gaining} ^{at} ^{one}
 I've been lost in it all winter, tracing old wanderings & trying to
 make something like a book of them. In the last drizzled
 day I took a little more cold & Mrs Parsons one of the most
 active & useful members of the S Club died suddenly a few days ago
 who then traveled old begin to ^{left} ^{me} ^{search} ^{to} ^{find} ^{the}
 way to the Sierra woods for fresh healing air
 Tell me in a few lines how are ^{prospiring}
 however ^{shapely} ^{silent} that I ^{am} ^{ever} ^{your} ^{faithfully}
 Yours truly
 J M

(Copied from rough draft of letter marked Y-10)

[ca 26 May 1914]

Dear Mr. Herrin:

Thanks, thanks, thanks for your everlasting kindness. Ever since that last delightful night at your home I have been lost in Alaska, sinking in moss bogs, jumping logs, rocks, and crevasses, drifting along endless fiords, tracing old wanderings and trying to make something like a book of them.

Last Friday Mr. Parsons, one of our faithfulest Sierra Club members died suddenly of heart dilation. I've taken a little more cold in this drizzle weather. As soon as these trouble clouds lift a little I'll gladly spend another reviving night with you and go to your blessed, healing, cheering, Wildwood pines.

Ever faithfully yours,

J.M.

(Rough draft of letter to Mrs. Parsons on same sheet of paper)

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[ca 26 May 1914]

(Copied from rough draft of letter marked Y-10
Letter to Mr. Herrin on same fragment)

Dear Mrs. Parsons:

I little thought when last I wrote that the end of your husband's blessed faithful life was so nigh. Mr. Colby's letter alarmed me but I refused to believe that one so full of the strength of the hills was beyond healing. I wish I could help to comfort you in your sore loneliness, though the warmest heart words must at first be unavailing. From this good world he knew so well he has gone to a better world and while his cheery inspiring presence will be sadly missed by every good mountaineer they will all continue to rejoice together in the great, good, enduring work he accomplished. None will miss his inspiring presence more than myself, for especially in Sierra Club work I had come to depend on him with ever-increasing confidence.

[JOHN MUIR]

RELIANCE BOND

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